What is claimed is:

1.   A multiple level service system comprising a processing device responsive to inquiries received over a communications medium, wherein the processing device identifies a level of service and provides a user progressively greater degrees of interaction at respective levels of service.

2.   A system as recited in claim 1, the processing device being responsive to the inquiry by gathering, retrieving, and transmitting information at a first level of service.

3.   A system as recited in claim 2, the processing device being responsive to the inquiry by distinguishing between a need for additional information and for referral to a professional to provide a response to the inquiry.

4.   A system as recited in claim 3, the processing device being responsive to the inquiry by identifying and requesting additional information from a source of the inquiry if needed before referral to the professional.

5.   A system as recited in claim 4, the processing device issuing commands to establish a communications link between the source of the inquiry and a communication device of the professional.

6.   A system as recited in claim 5, the processing device being responsive to a further inquiry from one of the user and the professional to identify at least one other professional as a member of a referral team and to establish a link to the other professional.

7.   A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the processing device receives image data from a remote site, thereby allowing remote observation of a patient's condition.

8.   A system as recited in claim 1, wherein a health care professional is linked to the system to communicate with clients of the system, and evaluate information and diagnostic and other medical findings transmitted by the client into the system.

5   9.   A system as recited in claim 2, wherein the information includes a list of research studies being conducted on an issue of interest. *LIBRARY*

10.   A system as recited in claim 3, the processing device being programmed to monitor selected parameters associated with a user and to communicate messages to a 10   device at the user's location that reads the parameters.

11.   A system as recited in claim 10, the processing device being programmed to cause the device at the user's location to administer treatment to the user.
GROUP THERAPY

15   12.   A system as recited in claim 3, the processing device being programmed to monitor selected parameters associated with a user and to communicate messages to a device which is remote from the user's location, wherein the processing device causes the remote device to administer treatment to the user.   *JOURNAL →*
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20   13.   A system as recited in claim 5, the processing device establishing a weighing function to weigh responses of the user and using the weighed responses to select the professional for referral.   *ALARM*

14.   A networked system linking individuals with a server that provides
25   practical medical, veterinary, or health care information on disease or health subjects of interest to an inquirer, and allows the inquirer to interact with health care professionals at several levels, from pure information gathering to medical diagnostic and therapeutic interventions by telemedicine methods.

30   15.   A system as recited in claim 14, wherein a client requests specific disease management information and options, and receives the information on a specific subject or

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question basis, the information being related to practice guidelines relevant to the inquirer's geographic region.

16. A system as recited in claim 14, wherein a client requests consultative services from a health care professional expert in an area of interest to the client.

17. A system as recited in claim 14, wherein a client receives consultative services from a health care professional expert in an area of interest to the inquirer.

18. A system as recited in claim 14, wherein a client receives a requested list of expert practitioners in his/her domicile or geographic region.

19. A system as recited in claim 14, wherein a client receives a requested list of ongoing clinical research trials pertaining to the management of a specific disease and state of interest to the client.

20. A system as recited in claim 14, wherein a client transmits telemedicine diagnostic findings or results via a network to a health care professional for improved patient or disease management.

21. A system as recited in claim 14, wherein a client can have therapeutic interventions performed via cyberspace telemedicine signals over the network.

22. A system as recited in claim 14, wherein a client can have therapeutic interventions performed utilizing images transmitted over the network.

23. A system as recited in claim 14, wherein the telemedicine signals can effect release of a chemical or drug into the client using an implanted device.

24. A system as recited in claim 20, wherein a client can have therapeutic interventions performed via cyberspace telemedicine signals over the network and wherein

~~the telemedicine signals can effect release~~ of a chemical or drug into the client by means of an implanted device.

25.   A system as recited in claim 20, wherein a telemedicine diagnostic device is either in a home or at a facility, providing diagnostic findings to a second server for interpretation and recording.

26.   A system as recited in claim 25, wherein the telemedicine diagnostic device comprises an imaging device which provides image data to the second server.

27.   A system as recited in claim 25, wherein the diagnostic device is capable of analyzing at least one of anatomy, body functions, and body fluids, for certain disease markers or normal body components or functions, whereby the results can be transmitted to the second server on the network.

28.   A networked health care service that provides a client with one or more levels of service.

29.   A server for an electronic inquiry-based information system, intended for use with a computer connected to the server over a network, the server comprising:

a network connection to connect to the network and to provide a communication path with the computer;

a user interface to present information over the network to a user at the home computer, and to accept an inquiry over the network from the user at the home computer;

a system for determining a level of service access for the user;

a system for determining a level of sophistication of the user;

a search processor to create search requests used to acquire information requested in the user inquiry;

a system for providing a selection of professionals to the user and for creating a team from the selection of professionals for treating a health-related issue of the user; and

a communication system for directing the user inquiry to the team of professionals.

30.   A method of providing practical medical, veterinary, or other health care information on disease or health subjects of interest to a user, the method comprising:

determining a desired level of service access for the user;

accepting an inquiry from the user;

composing a search request based on the user inquiry;

searching a database, using the search request, in order to identify information requested in the user inquiry;

providing the search results to the user;

accepting a follow-up inquiry from the user which entails providing a higher level of service access; and

allowing the user to request a consultation with a health care professional and, if desired by the user, providing the user with a list of possible health care professionals.

31.   A method as recited in claim 30, further comprising:

accepting preferences, from the user, regarding health care professionals;

creating a weighing function to rank order health care professionals;

accepting a selection, from the user, of a health care professional; and

providing contact information, to the user, for the selected health care professional.

32.   A method as recited in claim 30, further comprising transmitting telemedicine signals over a network to effect the release of a chemical or drug into the user through an implanted device.

33.   A health care system for delivering health care to a patient, the system comprising:

a server, communicatively coupled to a network, for receiving and transmitting signals;

a monitoring device, communicatively coupled to the network and adapted to be connected to the patient, which is adapted to monitor the patient and to transmit patient information to the server over the network; and

a treatment device, communicatively coupled to the network and adapted to be connected to the patient, which receives a treatment signal from the server over the

network and is adapted to administer a treatment to the patient based on the treatment signal received.

34.   A health care system as recited in claim 33, wherein the treatment comprises a diagnostic procedure and the treatment device comprises a diagnostic device.

35.   A health care system as recited in claim 33, further comprising a second treatment device, communicatively coupled to the server and remote from the patient, which receives the patient information from the monitoring device, analyzes the patient information, and transmits a treatment signal to the treatment device based on the patient information.

36.   A health care system as recited in claim 33, wherein the treatment signal results in a treatment selected from a group consisting of an electrical impulse, a chemical stimulus, and a measured release of substance contained in a controlled-release reservoir implanted in a body of a patient and whose release is controlled by an implanted computerized chip.